Rs. 89,78,395 which is less than one year's income by 11 lacs. Of this amount, 15 lacs at the least would be required as a working balance. Ten lacs represent the Virutlli fund which is intended to meet the new charges arising from the abolition of the viruthi system of supplies to religious and charitable institutions. Then, we have only Rs. 64,78,395 which may be called the *reserve proper*. The legitimate use of a reserve is to employ it on reproductive works. Since last year, the Kodayar Irrigation Project work is carried on out of the reserve fund. Even the first revised estimate of Rs. 28,05,450 sent by Mr. Jopp which, it should be remembered, was nearly four times that of Mr. Jacob's original estimate of Rs. 7,94,850 is now declared to be *too low*. The second revised estimate is now under active preparation. Already, Rs. 24,72,844 have been spent on this great work. Half of the dam and nearly three-fourths of the Tiruvancode branch of the Left Bank Channel may be said to have been completed. The construction of the Right Bank and Thovalay channels and distributaries of all 'channels have yet to be commenced. Under these circumstances, we may safely conclude that at least another 20 lacs would be required to complete this Project work. When Mr. Jopp's estimate came before me, I had to consider the financial aspect of the Project. On the data furnished by the Settlement Officer specially deputed for the collection of the necessary statistics, I then came to the conclusion that, on an expenditure of 60 lacs, we may expect a return of 5 per cent. I trust that the expenditure may not reach the high figure of 60 lacs. Some allowance must be made for our hopes of return not being *fully* realised. But I entertain no doubt that, under any circumstances, we may be sure of a return of $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 per cent. and that the project will prove a really reproductive work. After its completion, the Trivandrum water-supply scheme, which is roughly estimated to cost Rs. 8 lacs, has to be taken up. The history of great project works proves that the first estimate can never give us any approximate idea of the actual cost. The Kodayar and Karamanay projects are likely to absorb a very large portion of the small reserve (so often called 'hoards'). We should not forget that we should have some reserve to fall back upon when adverse seasons and epidemics may not only affect the revenue but also necessitate extra expenditure. I may here quote the weighty and far-seeing observations of His Excellency the present Viceroy, than whom there is no more sincere friend to Native States, made in his speech to the Kathyawar chiefs in November 1900:—

"There is another lesson which the famine has taught you and that is the positive "necessity of laying by a portion of your incomes in every year as an *emergency* "*fund* to meet these sudden and terrible strains. The fascination of living up to "one's income is well-known in all classes. When famine ensues, a rude awakening "comes; for, an exhausted treasury is powerless to meet demands that fall thick and "fast upon it and the State is thereupon burdened with a debt that may hamper its "development for many years to come. The finances of some of the States, greatly "to their credit, were able to weather the storm without any recourse to outside "assistance."

I need hardly tell you that the financial policy indicated by Lord Curzon in the above quotation has always been our policy, and that it must continue to be our guide. It is obvious that our small reserve, with the charges it has to bear, will not justify even a partial sacrifice of any of our sources of revenue.

While His Highness' Government do not desire to increase the revenue under "stamps", they cannot look upon any material decrease of it with indifference.' So far as I could see now, Mr. Kesava Pillai has not lost sight of this important consideration in framing the present Bill. I know that some adjustment of rates is necessary, but what I wish to impress upon you is that it should be so made as not to affect the revenue derived from this source.

DYNAMITE BILL.

Mr. Kesava Pillai.—I beg to move that the Rules be suspended and that permission be granted for the immediate introduction and consideration of this Bill, which is an urgent measure. It has been already published in the Gazette and circulated among the members.

President.—In reference to the motion now before the Council, I would point out that, as Regulation I of 1079 will be in force for only 6 months, it is necessary

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to pass this Bill without loss of time. It will be seen that the Bill is virtually a reproduction of the Regulation already passed to meet the urgency of the situation; and it is hardly necessary, therefore, to refer it to a Select Committee. Whatever amendments the Members may wish to suggest can be taken up at once and considered by the Council. If the Bill be pushed so far at this meeting, it may be possible to pass it finally at the next meeting of the Council three months hence, or well before the expiry of the six months the special Regulation will have effect.

The Council having suspended the Rules, Mr. Kesava Pillai introduced the Bill and in doing so, said:—

The measure is a simple one and not of a contentious character. I have explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons the necessity for the enactment, which is based on the Indian Explosives Act, IV of 1884. I beg to move that the principle of the Bill be affirmed and that the Council proceed at once to consider its provisions.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Section 1.

Mr. Rajaram Row.—I beg to propose that the words "at once" in line 2 be omitted. As there is already a Regulation (I of 1079) in force for a period of six months, it is better that the permanent Regulation to be passed takes effect from a specified date. The date can be fixed when the Bill is finally passed.

Seconded by Mr. Kesava Pillai.

Carried.

Section 3.

Mr. Govinda Pillai.—I beg to propose that the words "from the expiry of fifteen days from the date this Regulation comes into force" in lines 1 to 5 be omitted. This wording occurs in Regulation I of 1079, but is hardly necessary in a permanent Regulation.

Seconded by Mr. Kuruvila.

Carried.

Mr. Govinda Pillai.—In the second para of this section, I beg to propose that the words "within one week from the date of the publication of this Regulation in the official Gazette" in lines 1, 2 and 3 be omitted. The reason for this amendment is the same as for the one just carried.

Seconded by Mr. Kuruvila.

Carried.

Mr. Govinda Pillai.—In the same para, I beg to propose that the words "who wishes to have dynamite in his possession" be substituted for "in possession of dynamite" in lines 3 and 4, and the words "which he wishes to possess" for "in his possession" in line 6. As, under the operation of Regulation I of 1079, the persons in possession of dynamite will all have taken out licenses, it is hardly necessary to refer in this Bill to cases of such possession. It would be enough if the Bill be confined to persons desiring to possess dynamite after it becomes law. Hence the amendment.

Seconded by Mr. Kesava Pillai.

Carried.

Section 9.

Mr. Kesava Pillai.—I beg to propose that this section be recast as follows:—

"Whoever is found committing—

(*a*) any act which tends to cause explosion or fire in or about any place or building, or any carriage, ship or boat in which dynamite is kept or stored, or,

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(*b*) any act with dynamite which tends to cause explosion or fire in or about any place or building, or any carriage, ship or boat,

may be apprehended without a warrant by a Police-officer, or by the occupier of, or the agent or servant of, or other person authorized by, the occupier of, such place, building, carriage, ship or boat, and be removed from the place where he is arrested, and conveyed, as soon as conveniently may be, before a Magistrate."

It is desirable that the power of arrest provided for by this section be made applicable to both the classes of cases specified in the amendment. The interests of public safety in both are equally important and prompt action would be necessary as much in the one case as in the other.

Seconded by Mr. Nagam Aiya.

Carried.

Mr. Kesava Pillai.—I beg to propose that the following be inserted as a new section after section 9:—

"The Dewan may, with Our santion, from time to time, by notification in the official Gazette, declare that any substance which appears to be specially dangerous to life or property, by reason either of its explosive properties or of any process in the manufacture thereof being liable to explosion, shall be brought under this Regulation; and the provisions of this Regulation (subject to such exceptions, limitations and restrictions as may be specified in the notification) shall accordingly extend to such substance."

The Bill as it stands applies to the possession and use only of dynamite; but, on further consideration, it has been found desirable to insert a section empowering the executive to extend the provisions of the Regulation to other explosive substances when necessary.

Seconded by Mr. Rajaram Row.

President.—In connection with this amendment, I may mention that, though the primary object of the Regulation is to confine its provisions to dynamite in respect of which actual necessity has arisen, a provision to extend the law to other explosives appears necessary, as the absence of such a provision might hold out a premium to the mischievous use of such substances and thereby defeat the chief aim of this measure. Since the passing of Regulation I of 1079, it has been brought to the notice of Government by Mr. Adams, the agent of Messrs. Parry & Co. and the Morgan Crucible Company, Limited, that there are several other "high explosives" such as gelatine dynamite, blasting gelatine, stonite, carbonite &c., which are equally dangerous and some of which have already found their way into the country. These will not strictly come under the definition of 'dynamite' given in the Bill and, with the advance in scientific inventions, it is possible that new substances of a highly explosive nature may be discovered. In the Indian Explosives Act, IV of 1884, there is a section corresponding to the amendment now proposed, empowering the executive to extend the Act to particular substances of an explosive nature by notifications published in the Gazette. I think a similar provision is very necessary in our Bill also. For obvious reasons, it is preferable to have a general provision in the law authorizing the issue of notifications to meet particular cases, from time to time, rather than amend the law each time a necessity arises.

Carried.

Mr. Nagam Aiya.—I beg to propose that the following be inserted as the last but one section:—

"The Dewan may, with Our sanction, make rules consistent with this Regulation providing for—

(*a*) the fees to be charged for licenses, and other sums (if any) to be paid for expenses by applicants for licenses;

(*b*) the manner in which applications for licenses should be made and the matters to be specified in such applications;

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(*c*) the form in which and the conditions on and subject to which licenses will be granted;

(*d*) the period for which licenses are to remain in force; and

(*e*) penalties for breach of the rules or the conditions specified in the licenses;

and generally to carry out the provisions of this Regulation."

This is taken from section 5 of the Indian Explosives Act and appears necessary for the practical working of the Regulation. The Bill itself does not provide for the levy of fees for licenses or other matters mentioned in the proposed section. These are best regulated by rules passed from time to time.

Seconded by Mr. Kesava Pillai.

Carried.

Mr. Kesava Pillai.—I beg to move that the Bill as now amended be published in the Gazette and that it be read again on a future day of which notice shall be given.

The motion was put and agreed to.

PRESS BILL.

Mr. Rajaram Row.—The next item on the Agenda is the final consideration of the Press Bill. Before moving for the passing of the Bill, I beg, with the permission of the President, to propose a few amendments which are purely verbal, though I have not given notice of them.

Section 8.

Mr. Rajaram Row.—I beg to propose that, in line 5, "declarations" be substituted for "declaration." This is merely to correct a typographical error.

Seconded by Mr. Govinda Pillai.

Carried.

Section 14.

Mr. Rajaram Row.—I beg to propose that the words "clause (*a*) of" be omitted in line 9 of the first paragraph, and lines 4 and 5 of the last paragraph of this section. This is necessary in view of the amendment passed at a previous meeting in section 12, which in its amended form does not contain the "clause (*a*)" referred to in the proposed amendment.

Seconded by Mr. Kuruvila.

Carried.

Section 25.

Mr. Rajaram Row.—I beg to propose that the word "keep" be substituted for "own" in line 1 and "keeping" for "owning" in line 3. The amendment is proposed to make the wording consistent with the phraseology employed in sections 3 and 5.

Seconded by Mr. Govinda Pillai.

Carried.

Mr. Rajaram Row.—I am glad to find that this Bill has reached its last stage and is ready to be passed by the Council this evening. During its passage through the several stages, I am glad it was subjected to criticism both in and outside the country and that the result of that criticism has been to show that there is nothing in it which is dangerous to the interests of the public. On the other hand, the absence of such a law has been pointed out by such a respectable newspaper as the "Madras Mail" very recently as a great draw-back. I may assure the public that the provisions of this law will be carried out as leniently as possible, and I hope and feel that the occasions on which it may have to be put into force will occur but very seldom. I now beg to propose that the Bill as amended be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

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